

25 February 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: John N. McMahon  
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Meeting on Iran, 25 February 1980

1. David Aaron called a meeting for 0900 today to consider the Administration's reaction to any information coming from the Commission's trip to Iran. Present were:

David Newsom  
Hal Saunders  
Gary Sick  
Bob Owen  
Jody Powell  
Jerrold Schecter  
Herb Hetu  
ICA Representative

2. Saunders noted that the Commission should finish up its visit to Iran in one to two weeks and will then submit a report to the United Nations stating Iran's point of view of the Shah's regime. Presumably, there will be congressional hearings following that report and what is needed for the moment is a determination as to how the Administration will handle responses to the Commission.

3. It was decided that the Administration will not comment until the report has been submitted to the UN. State Department will prepare an informal preemptive release noting that the U.S. will not respond to any allegations by the Iranians to the Commission until after the report has been submitted to the UN and at a time and place of our choosing. ICA will get guidance out internally in a classified form which can be passed to host governments noting that the U.S. will not respond until the report has been submitted. State Department will commence gathering material regarding our relationship with Iran over the years, and will point out the positive aspects of U.S. influence on human rights and economic and political reform. The U.S. position will also show the patience which the U.S. has demonstrated versus that of the Soviets' use of force in Afghanistan. The focus of U.S. comments when they are made will be towards the left and center left and the intelligentsia of the Third World.

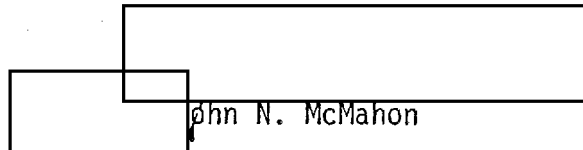
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5. The Commission has a list of the 50 hostages and they will make it a point to see all of them. Should any of the hostages be missing or dead, the Commission will be asked by the U.S. to investigate that situation.



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John N. McMahon

cc: C/NE  
C/CAS/IAD